

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS *Newsletter*



EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EQUIP
Students for Life

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Message from Superintendent Rob Ridgeway

Welcome Back 2022-23



Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! We are excited to start the school year and welcome our students and staff back into our buildings. The last two years have been a challenge and we as a school district want to reemphasize the importance of daily attendance. One lesson learned during COVID is that face-to-face instruction is critical to the success of students both academically and socially. Every single day is important, and I want to implore our parents, guardians, and families to stress good attendance at school. Even missing one day a month will cause a student to have ten absences for the year, which is considered excessive by state reporting. It is critical that you do your part and only have your child stay home if they are sick.

Please take note that the elementary school day has been adjusted slightly. The student day will begin at 8:50 am and end at 3:45 pm. The major reason for the adjustment is to allow more time for our buses to complete routes so students get to school on time and buses are not late at the end of the school day.

Harper Creek is a community, and we want you to feel welcome within our school. Take time to get involved – volunteer, participate in school events, and attend school meetings – your voice and expertise are important as we use our collective resources to educate, empower and equip our greatest resource – our students.

Have a great 2022-23 school year!



New Kindergarten Initiatives

Harper Creek Community Schools is excited to announce two new enhancements to our kindergarten programming for the 2022-2023 school year. First and foremost, we are offering Developmental Kindergarten to ensure our newest students have a great start to their education. Kindergarten age students will be placed in either kindergarten or developmental kindergarten based on many factors, including testing, age, social development, academic development, and teacher observation. Developmental kindergarten is a full-day every-day program with smaller class sizes and will allow students extra time to be prepared for school both academically and socially. Three of our experienced kindergarten teachers will be teaching developmental kindergarten. We are excited for this new program!

Second, we will be starting school a little differently this year for our kindergarteners. All three elementary schools, Beadle Lake Elementary, Sonoma Elementary and Wattles Park Elementary will be using a Soft Start for kindergarten. The Soft Start for kindergarten and developmental kindergarten students will begin Monday, August 22nd - Wednesday, August 24th. During these days students will have the opportunity to work with all the kindergarten teachers as we create balanced classes for the year. Kindergarten students will come to school for a full day and enjoy lots of fun activities as an extension of kinder camp! We will also be able to assess students who were not able to attend our summer camp to help us best place those students. Parents will be notified by callout of their child's teacher placement.



Athletic Fees Reduced

The Board of Education approved the reduction in price of athletic fees at the July Board of Education meeting.

High School student-athletes will now pay \$40 per sport. Middle School student-athletes will pay \$30 per sport. Harper Creek families will pay no more than \$200 in athletic fees.

Free and Reduced meals qualified students' athletic fees are waived.



Harper Creek Educational Foundation and The Beaver Boosters' Annual Golf Outing Saturday, September 24, 2022

For more information email tinakyger@gmail.com or call 269-209-3419





From Food Service

Universal Free Breakfast is available in all our buildings this year. Middle School and High School students may get breakfast at from 7:15 AM – 7:40 AM. Elementary students will again have breakfast in the classrooms.



Lunch Prices	
Elementary Lunch.....	\$2.45
Middle and High School Lunch	\$2.55
Middle and High School Premium Lunch ...	\$3.25
Reduced Lunch.....	\$0.40
Adult Lunch.....	\$5.25

The Meal Magic Family Portal now serves as the point where families can apply for free and reduced lunch, set up online meal payment, and pay for school meal purchases. Use the QRcode to get started!

We encourage all of our families to apply for free and reduced lunch, even if you think you may not qualify. These applications not only help to determine who may need assistance paying for meals, but they are also used to determine funding that benefits all of our learners.

Alumni Band Night

The Harper Creek High School Marching Band invites band Alumni to join them on the field Friday, September 1 for the first home football game of the year. Band Director, Brian Borders wants to fill the field with current and former HC band members playing their instruments. Watch the High School and District websites for more information. You can also contact Mr. Borders at BordersB@harpercreek.net.



Non-Discrimination

Harper Creek Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), marital status, disability, or any other legally prohibited basis in admission or access to district programs and activities.

Protection of Pupil Rights

Parents/guardians may inspect any survey created by a third party before that survey is administered or distributed to their student. All survey inspection requests must be made in writing to the building principal before the survey's scheduled administration date.

The District must obtain written consent from a student's parent/guardian before the student is required to participate in a survey, analysis, or evaluation funded, in whole or part, by the U.S. Department of Education that would reveal sensitive information about a student, the District will provide prior notice to the student's parent/guardian and an opportunity for the parent/guardian to opt their student out.

Employees may not request or disclose the identity of a student who completes a survey, evaluation, or analysis containing sensitive information.

"Sensitive Information" includes:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- Sexual behavior;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of other persons with whom the student has close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileges or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliation, or beliefs of the student's parent/guardian;
- Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participating in a program or for receiving financial assistance under that program).

Integrated Pest Management

The District will monitor, manage, and treat pests on District property. The Board does not authorize the application of a pesticide on District property unless a written integrated pest management program is in place for that property. The Superintendent or designee will develop, evaluate, and modify site-specific integrated pest management programs in accordance with the law.

The Board only authorizes the lawful application of a pesticide by a certified or registered applicator who has been properly trained. After the application of a pesticide, a person may only reenter District property in compliance with restrictions identified by the application and required by law.

A "pesticide" does not include sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants, or antimicrobial agents.

Notice

Within 30 days after the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee will provide notice to students' parents/guardians that they will receive advance notice of the application of a pesticide.

Except in an emergency, the Superintendent or designee will provide at least 48 hours of advance notice to students' parents/guardians of the application of a pesticide. In an emergency, the Superintendent or designee will provide notice to students' parents/guardians promptly after a pesticide has been applied.

Notices will comply with methods, time frames, and information requirements established by MCL 324.8316.

Records

Each building will maintain a copy of its integrated pest management program. Records of pesticide use and other non-pesticide pest management practices will be maintained on-site.

Bloodborne Pathogens

Bloodborne pathogens and other infectious body fluids can be transmitted through contact with skin, eyes, mouth, and mucous membranes, including needle sticks, cuts, punctures, and bites. The District will observe universal precautions to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Under circumstances in which differentiation between body fluid types is difficult or impossible, all body fluids will be considered potentially infectious materials.

Use of Tobacco

The District prohibits the sale, possession, distribution, dispensation, or use of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, and all electronic nicotine delivery systems on property owned or operated by the District.

Weapon Free Zone

The District is a weapon-free school zone. Except as otherwise permitted by Policy or required by applicable law, a person may not possess a weapon on District property.

3107-F Use of Detection Dogs Policy Notice

The District may use detection dogs, without a warrant or consent, to sniff property in an effort to locate illegal drugs or contraband according to Board Policy 3107's protocol. Detection dogs will not be used to search a person unless the search is otherwise authorized by law or Policy.

The District will inform students and personnel over the public address system when a detection dog is being used and may direct students and personnel to remain in place or relocate.

A detection dog alerting on a person's property constitutes reasonable suspicion for a District administrator to search the property. Anything found during a search that violates Policy, school rules, school handbook, or state or federal law may be seized and used as evidence in a disciplinary proceeding. Any illegal drugs, dangerous weapons, and other illegal items found during a search will be tagged and identified by a District administrator and turned over to law enforcement.

For more information on these policies and all Harper Creek Community Schools's policies can be found on the Harper Creek Community School website <https://www.harpercreek.net/>



Harper Creek Community Schools Calendar of Events

5th Grade Orientation	August 19	Middle School.....	7:30 AM – 12:00 PM
9th Grade Orientation	August 19	High School	7:45 AM – 11:45 AM
Alumni Band Night	September 1	Football Field	
No School	September 2		
No School	September 5	Labor Day	
Homecoming	September 23		
HCEF/Booster	Golf Outing	September 24	
Community Connections.....	October 19	Administration	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
No School – Fall Break	October 21		
No School – Fall Break	October 24		
½ Day of School	November 11		
½ Day of School	November 23		
No School	November 24 and 25		
½ Day of School	December 21		
½ Day of School	December 22		

Winter Break December 23, 2022 through January 6, 2023
Go to www.HarperCreek.net for more up to date information.



